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September 29, 2006

Delegation from California

SUBJECT: OPPOSE NATIONAL UNIFORMITY FOR FOOD ACT OF 2005 (NUFA)

Honorable Delegation from California,

I am writing on behalf of the California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO). CCLHO is comprised of all legally appointed physician Health Officers from California's 58 counties and the cities of Berkeley, Long Beach and Pasadena. It was created by the legislature in 1947 to advise government on local public health practice. CCLHO provides a forum for the discussion of significant health issues in order to develop recommendations for appropriate health policy. This includes legislative and regulatory review.

CCLHO opposes the National Uniformity for Food Act of 2005 (NUFA) in its present form. It is our understanding that in March 2006, NUFA was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives. If NUFA becomes law, it will adversely impact state powers to set food and safety standards. It has been estimated that NUFA could eliminate over 80% of current food safety and security programs in the U.S., continuing a pattern of federal interventions whose effect is the preemption of state powers to protect public health.

The nation's current food safety regulatory framework is a complex interplay of federal, state, and local law. While federal food safety activities receive much attention, in fact, the vast majority of food safety activity occurs at the state or local level. Please do not hamper state and local powers to keep our food supply safe with the passage of NUFA.

Sincerely,

(Original signed by:)

Glennah Trochet, M.D.
President
CCLHO